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News Releases

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State Increases State Water Project Allocation from 0 to 5% Good News, but Remains Lowest Allocation in History

The California Department of Water Resources today announced that State Water Project (SWP) contractors will begin receiving five percent of their allotted water supplies from the state. The department had previously forecasted that contractors would not receive any of their supplies in 2014 due to a multi-year drought.

“When looking at our imported water supply, even a small increase is good news for the Coachella Valley. A five percent allocation is important to our long-term efforts to reduce overdraft of the aquifer,” said Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) General Manager Jim Barrett.

CVWD and Desert Water Agency (DWA) are both SWP contractors with a combined allotment of 194,100 acre-feet per year. To date, the Agencies have replenished more than 3.2 million acre-feet of imported water into the Coachella Valley’s aquifer.

While this increase from zero to five percent is good news for SWP contractors, it remains the lowest overall SWP allocation in history.

“Managing the groundwater in the Coachella Valley is of utmost importance to the Desert Water community, and the key to that is our State Water allocation,” said DWA board president Craig Ewing. “In the future, the challenges of managing the State Water Project will grow unless we join with other agencies and all Californians to bring the SWP up to date. In the meantime, I am sure that today agencies across the state are breathing a sigh of relief.”

The SWP supplies water for 25 million Californians, 750 thousand acres of farmland and business throughout California, including the Bay Area, Central Valley, Southern California and the desert region. DWA and CVWD exchange the water they receive from the SWP for water from the Colorado River Aqueduct because there is not a direct pipeline from the SWP to the Coachella Valley. DWA and CVWD use this water to recharge the groundwater basin, ultimately providing water to Coachella Valley residents and businesses.

About DWA

Desert Water Agency is a public, non-profit agency and a State Water Contractor, serving a 325-square-mile area, including parts of Cathedral City, outlying county areas, Desert Hot Springs and Palm Springs. An elected five-member board sets policy and represents the ratepayers. For more information, please visit www.dwa.org.

About CVWD

The Coachella Valley Water District is a public agency governed by a five-member board of directors. The district provides domestic and irrigation water, agricultural drainage, wastewater treatment and reclamation services, regional storm water protection, groundwater management and water conservation. It serves approximately 108,000 residential

and business customers across 1,000 square miles, located primarily in Riverside County, but also in portions of Imperial and San Diego counties. For more information, please visit www.cvwd.org.

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CVWD News Releases

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